

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 AGR-20 TRSE-00

SWF-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 IO-14 /121 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:JKBISHOP:BA
APPROVED BY AF-AMB. MULCAHY
AFR/CWR-DSHEAR (DRAFT)
AF/W-JLOUGHRAN

----- 057468

R 312154Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LOME
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, TO

SUBJECT: GOT REQUEST FOR WHEAT

REF: A) LOME 1697, B) LOME 1583,

NIAMEY FOR ADO, ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

1. MINISTER TEVI RECEIVED BY ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MULCAHY AND OTHER STATE AND AID/W OFFICIALS JULY 30.
ALTHOUGH DEPT HAD ADVISED TOGOLESE EMBASSY THAT EMBASSY
LOME ALREADY HAD INFORMED GOT NO PL-480 WHEAT WOULD BE
AVAILABLE FOR TOGO, TEVI MADE STRONG PITCH. SAID HE RE-
CENTLY VISITED NORTHERN TOGO WHERE HE WITNESSED DROUGHT
EFFECTS, ESPECIALLY INFLUX OF NOMADS WITH CATTLE FROM
COUNTRIES TO NORTH AND CONSEQUENT INCREASES IN PRICES OF
FOODSTUFFS. WHEN ASKED HOW WHEAT USUALLY CONSUMED BY
COASTAL POPULATION COULD HELP DROUGHT VICTIMS IN NORTH,
TEVI REPLIED NORTHERNS COULD ACQUIRE TASTE.

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2. TEVI SAID IF USG NOT PREPARED PROVIDE 20,000 TONS PL-480 WHEAT HE HAD REQUESTED (SIC), HE WOULD LIKE: 1) "SYMBOLIC" SHIPMENT OF TWO TO FIVE THOUSAND TONS; OR 2) OPPORTUNITY BUY WHEAT AT SPECIAL COMMERCIAL TERMS HE WAS NOT PREPARED SPECIFY; OR 3) OPPORTUNITY FOR TOGO TO MILL SOME OF WHEAT BEING SHIPPED TO SAHEL COUNTRIES. HE WAS TOLD: 1) THAT NO PL-480 WHEAT WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR TOGO DUE COMPETING NEEDS ELSEWHERE AND; 2) NO PL-480 WHEAT

BEING SHIPPED SAHEL COUNTRIES WHICH COULD BE MILLED IN TOGO, MILLING WHICH IN ANY CASE WOULD BE PROHIBITED BY PL-480 RE-EXPORT BAN.

3. DURING DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON DROUGHT, OFFER WAS MADE TO HAVE US EXPERTS UNDERTAKE RECONNAISSANCE NORTHERN TOGO TO ASCERTAIN EXTENT DROUGHT IMPACT ON REGION. TEVI WAS TOLD USG MIGHT BE PREPARED SHIP SORGHUM AND PERHAPS CORN TO AREA IF DROUGHT WARRANTED. WHILE WELCOMING SUGGESTION IN PRINCIPLE, TEVI ASKED THAT NO EXPERTS BE SENT UNTIL AFTER HIS RETURN LOME IN MID-AUGUST.

4. IN RESPONSE TEVI'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN GRAIN STABILIZATION, WELL DRILLING, AND OTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE SUPPLY FOODSTUFFS AT REASONABLY CONSTANT PRICES, HE WAS BRIEFED ON US GRAIN STABILIZATION AND LIVESTOCK LOANS TO ENTENTE FUND. HE APPEARED UNFAMILIAR WITH THESE PROGRAMS AND WAS BOTH EXPANSIVE AND VAGUE IN SUGGESTING WHAT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE US MIGHT OFFER.

5. COMMENT - DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS FROM TOGOLESE EMBASSY SOURCE THAT GOT HAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION A FLOUR MILL FOR WHICH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT EMISSARIES HAVE BEEN SEEKING OBTAIN WHEAT ON CONCESSIONAL BASIS FOR MANY MONTHS. DEPARTMENT AWARE FORMER AMBASSADOR MAWUSSI TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY OBTAIN WHEAT AT REDUCED PRICES FROM US COMMERCIAL SUPPLIERS; AND BOTH DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY AWARE REPEATED GOT REQUESTS FOR CONCESSIONAL SALES BY USG. TEVI'S DEMARCHE APPEARS FIT THIS PATTERN. LINKAGE OF WHEAT REQUEST TO DROUGHT RELIEF NEED MAY HAVE BEEN SPURIOUS, BUT TEVI INSISTS TOGO SUFFERING AT LEAST IN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTLY FROM DROUGHT. EMBASSY REQUESTED CONTINUE CLOSE MONITORING SITUATION NORTHERN TOGO. RECONNAISSANCE TEAM WILL BE SENT AS PROMISED IF TEVI STILL INTERESTED WHEN HE RETURNS LOME.

6. TEVI CLAIMED USG APPEARS HAVE DECIDED MINIMIZE USE LOME FOR DISCHARGE OF SAHELIAN RELIEF CARGOS. IN REPLY HE WAS TOLD NO SUCH DECISION EVER MADE BY USG WHICH VERY

PLEASED BY COOPERATION RECEIVED FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN
FACILITATING RELIEF SHIPMENTS. EMBASSY COMMENTS REQUESTED.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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